

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 8

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Ref: 8EPR-N

Ms. Julie K. King
District Ranger
Heber-Kamas Ranger District
Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
2460 South Highway 40
P.O. Box 190
Heber City, Utah 80432

Re: Comments on Indian Springs Road Realignment Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS): CEQ# 20080255

Dear Ms. King:

In accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 42 U.S.C. Section 4231 et. seq., and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 7609, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 (EPA) has reviewed the Indian Springs Road Realignment Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The proposed action includes realignment and road closure of Indian Springs Road to meet the purpose and need of the project. The purpose and need of this project is to reduce existing adverse impacts of the existing road to the watershed and fisheries and provide safer driving conditions and access to Strawberry Ridge from the south. The majority of the existing road would be obliterated and restored to natural condition with a small portion converted to a single-track motorcycle trail. The new road will be constructed in an inventoried roadless area (IRA) and will be 1.9 miles long with an alignment placed in an upland location just to the east of Strawberry Ridge.

The Forest Service (FS) has responded to the concerns that EPA raised in the DEIS regarding mitigation to preserve the status of this IRA and we applaud FS's project commitment to require incorporation of all mitigation measures included in Chapter 2 of the FEIS.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions or would like to discuss our comments, please contact me at (303) 312-6004 or Robin Coursen of my staff at (303)312-6695.

Sincerely,

Larry Svoboda

Director, NEPA Program

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Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation